

Norman Police Department

Policy Manual

Personal Appearance Standards

Personal Appearance Standards - 568

Adoption Date: 2016/07/27

© 1995-2016 Lexipol, LLC

1023.4.2 TATTOOS AND BODY ART

Tattoos and body art shall not be visible while the employee is in uniform or, if wearing civilian clothing, while the employee is on duty. Existing tattoos, provided they conform to the criteria enumerated in this policy, may be visible only if the employee has an approved Tattoo Declaration.

Additional or modified tattoos and body art that is visible while on duty shall not be obtained after the completion of the Tattoo Declaration Form.

Tattoos and body art that are extremist, indecent, sexist, racist, or prejudicial against any person are prohibited anywhere on the body as they are detrimental to good order and discipline within the agency.

(a) Extremist tattoos and body art are those affiliated with, depicting, or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations, or activities. Extremist philosophies are those which advocate violence or other unlawful means of depriving individual rights under the U.S. Constitution, Federal or Oklahoma law based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.

(b) Indecent tattoos and body art are those that are grossly offensive to modesty, decency, or propriety; or shock the moral sense because of their vulgar, filthy, or disgusting nature or tendency to incite lustful thought, or tend reasonably to corrupt morals or incite sexual desire.

(c) Sexist tattoos and body art that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on gender, but that may not meet the same definition of indecent.

(d) Racist tattoos and body art are those that advocate a philosophy that degrades or demeans a person based on race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.

Exceptions to this policy are medically necessary tattoos, or common cosmetic tattoos such as permanent eyebrows, makeup, skin discoloration repair, etc. provided they conform to the criteria enumerated in this policy.

When deemed operationally necessary, the Chief of Police may grant permission to an officer in a special assignment to display an existing tattoo or body art.

1023.4.3 BODY PIERCING OR ALTERATION

Body piercing (other than earlobes) or alteration to any area of the body that is visible while on-duty or while representing the Norman Police Department in any official capacity, that is a deviation from normal anatomical features and that is not medically required, is prohibited. Such body alteration includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Tongue splitting or piercing.
- (b) The complete or transdermal implantation of any material other than hair replacement (i.e., foreign objects inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern).
- (c) Abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose or teeth (i.e., enlarged or stretched out holes in the earlobes).
- (d) Branding, scarification or burning to create or design a pattern.